while answering part (c) of the question, the hon. Minister has pointed out some of the causes of derailment. Now I would like to know whether the Government has identified as to in how many cases derailments have been due to defects in mechanical equipment of coach, wagon or locomotive like wheel, etc., etc., and how many derailments have been caused by staff failure and how many by sabotage. I want to know whether the Government has identified all these causes and what measures have been taken up till now to rectify all such defects.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: Yes, the Government has already identified the causes. Eight per cent of the derailments are due to mechanical failure. I have already said that 1.5 per cent of these derailments happen due to sabotage.

Disinvestment of ONGC

*122. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to disinvest a part of its stake in the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) if so, what are the factors that weighed with Government for taking such a decision throwing open the sensitive area to MNCs;

(c) why all these years ONGC could not make a turn around even in the exploitation of natural gas for domestic and industrial purposes despite huge plan allocations and unrestricted autonomy; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the demoralising effect this disinvestment decision has brought about in the functioning of the Public Sector Units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) In order to facilitate mobilisation of additional resources for the projects of ONGC, Government have, *inter-alia,* decided divestiture of 20% of the equity of the proposed company after Oil and Natural Gas Commission is converted into a Public Limited Company, under the Companies Act, 1956. However, majority interest and thereby control would be retained by Government in the new company.

(c) ONGC has made significant efforts to develop and utilise domestic natural gas and its gas supplies have increased from a level of 2.67 MMSCMD in 1980-81 to about 37 MMSCMD at present.

(d) No such instances have come to the notice of the Government. There would be no reason for any demoralisation as the decision entails greater autonomy for the new company and ability to mobilise greater resources for larger activities.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Sir, I fully appreciate and understand the reasons leading to the policy of disinvestment, which will also help the entry of private enterprises to compete with the monolithic public sector which has not lived up to the dreams and expectations of our late leader, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It has been reported that indigenous oil production will not exceed 37 to 38 million tonnes as against the projected demand of 78 million tonnes, which means an additional import bill of 1.5 billion dollars. The ONGC's production fell down steeply: from 33 million tonnes in 1989-90, it has touched the lowest figure of 25.5 million tonnes in 1992-93. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the steep fall in the production is because of the non-availability of oil or the inefficiency of the ONGC which has failed to exploit our natural resources. If so, what steps are being taken by the Government to normalise the production?

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Sir,

through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member, "Yes, we are aware that the production has come down from 34 million metric tons to around 25.54 million metric tons. But unfortunately this has happened because when the production had peaked to 34 million metric tons at that stage certain measures which were necessary for sustaining the level of production were not taken like the water injection platform which should have been in place was not there because of paucity of funds. So it was discovered that the oil-gas ratio which should have been of a certain level was not there. There was something wrong going there.

The Das Gupta Committee was appointed to go into the question whether the field can sustain the production levels of 34 million tonnes. The recommendations were very specific that the reservoir there had got disbalanced. Some of the wells had to be shut down; otherwise, the reservoir would have been damaged permanently. Fortunately the reservoir is not damaged. But some of the wells are shut down there. That is why there has been a decline not only in the output of crude oil but also natural gas.

In fact, we have opened the oil sector to private investment, whether it is the ONGC which is now becoming a company with 20 per cent disinvestment or the discovered oil fields. We have opened the discovered oil fields also for foreign investment because of constraint of funds. Now, we are confident with the new policy, starting from the next year our production will be going up.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: At the start of the Seventies, out of 1,445 million cubic metres of natural gas gross production, almost half of it was flared to waste. Sir, the proportion of the gas flared, as reported, has now come down to around 30 per cent of the total production. The annual flaring of the gas is of the order of 4,500 to 5,500 million cubic metres in the recent years which means an annual loss of revenue of Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2000 crores at the present selling price based on the domestic consumption.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will give the highest priority to check the flaring of gas in the new investment policy. May I also know from the Minister whether the Government would accept the proposal from the Southern States for laying a pipeline to transfer the excess gas from the Bombay High to the Southern States especially to Karnataka, a proposal which is pending with the Centre for a long time? I would like to know from the Minister whether any time bound plan of action is being drawn up.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Sir, from the figures of 1989-90, 16,983 million standard cubic metres was the natural gas production, gas flared was 4,502 million standard cubic metres which is 26.5 per cent of the gas produced. For 1993-94 of course, as I mentioned earlier, the gas flaring up has come down because of various reasons — natural gas production is likely to be 19,658 million standard cubic metres. The gas likely to be flared will be 1,825 million standard cubic metres, the percentage is only 9.3 per cent. Of course, this will be for two reasons. First, a decline in the output. Second the gas flaring is also coming down.

And, we have just recently concluded a massive project with Canadian and other multinational aid. That is in place The work is in progress. I can assure the hon. Member that very soon, only the flaring which is necessary for technica considerations will be there, otherwise there will be no flaring of the gas.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Wha about the southern grid? Sir, I nee your protection. I want a specific answe from the Minister about laying the pipeline for the southern States.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Si again, we are discussing the shortage gas. We are having a shortage of gas i the country. We are all aware of it. /

we know, the HBJ pipeline was meant to deliver gas to various commercial and industrial organisations like fertilizer plants and all. But even there, because of the shortage of gas, we are not in a position to give what we have committed to. So, it will take some time for the southern grid which the hon. Member has mentioned. But I can get back to him and give the exact position.

DR. BAPU KALDATE: But we have accepted in principle that the southern grid is a must for us.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: The Government has already accepted in principle the concept of a gas pipeline from the western offshore to the southern region.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: But it is not implemented. We have it only in principle.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The hon. Member who has put this question prefaced his supplementary by saying that he appreciated the Minister's statement. I am afraid the Minister should have gone through the question.....*(Interruptions).*

DR. BAPU KALDATE: You have to be louder, Dipen. Even I am not able to hear you.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: He should have replied to what exactly the questioner wanted to know. Anyway, Sir, there are two parts of the question and the answer. The main reason which the hon. Minister has given for divestiture is mobilisation of additional resources. Divestiture of shares is one of the methods of mobilising additional resources. But the question was what steps the ONGC had so far taken to mobilise internal resources before divesting or disinvesting the shares. The reply to that part of the question is absent. The Minister has not given it. Part (b) of the question is, "if so, what are the factors that weighed with Government for taking such a decision throwing open the sensitive area to MNCs;". Part (c) is, 'why all these years ONGC could not make a turn around....". Actually, if the ONGC had made efforts to mobilise its internal resources and had failed in those efforts and thereafter, if it had taken this decision, I could understand it. But that sort of a reply is absent here. The reply is that the ONGC decided divestiture of 20 per cent of the equity of the proposed company after the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is converted into a public limited company under the Companies Act. It is 'after'....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I am putting it, Sir. It is a statutory organisation. If it has to be converted into a public limited company, the Government must come to Parliament, pass an Act and thereafter, it can be converted into a public limited company and can go in for divestiture; not before that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what the Minister said. Only 'after' this.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Naturally, my supplementary is, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask the supplementary. I thought you had asked the first part of the supplementary already.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, *(Interruptions).* Mr. Narayanasamy, you are not putting the question.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am keeping quiet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are so many Members to ask questions. So, if you please be brief, it will be fair to other Members.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I am helping the Minister because he is on his legs for his maiden reply. *(Interruptions).* Sir, my first supplementary is, how much additional resources the Government expects to mobilise by way of divestiture of 20 per cent shares of the ONGC? This is part (a) of my supplementary. *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question. You are taking too much time.

SHRI DEPEN-GHOSH: Part (b) of my supplementary is, it is public knowledge that the ONGC had invested a lot of money in its effort to mobilise additional resources. *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't state a fact but put your question.

SHRI DEPEN GHOSH: I would like to know as to how much money the Government had lost in their effort to mobilise additional resources through participation in the short term deposit or PMS.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much money has the Government spent to mobilise additional resources and how much has it lost?

SHRI DEPEN GHOSH: How much would they expect and how much money had already been lost in their efforts in the short term deposit or PMS.

DR. BAPU KALDATE: Sir, you will have to ask him to repeat his question.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Sir, the hon. Member is from Calcutta. He is obsessed with Peerless. I have not understood the other part of his question. Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Member that the ONGC has, as a statutory organisation that it was all these years, done an excellent job. It has always been a profit making company. Despite the fact that no increase in price has been paid to the ONGC for the period 1981 to 1992, it has still managed its affairs well. But, as the hon. Member mentioned, because of additional resource mobilisation, the exact figure which he is enquiring about, as to what the 20 per cent divestiture will amount to, the valuation of the ONGC is under way and when that is done, the picture of what the quantified amount for 20 per cent comes to, will be conveyed to the Member.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my supplementary arises out of the answer of the hon. Minister to the first supplementary. The hon. Minister may be aware that in 1982, the production of crude oil was 10 million tonnes and by the end of 1984, it came to 29.6 million tonnes. At that time, it was felt that based on the seismic survey and the report of the ONGC headed by Director Malhotra we will have to find yet another structure which should be similar to that of Bombay High and it was felt by the Expert Committee that one such structure could be the Krishna-Godavari basin-off-shore and on-shore, both. In the year 1982 to 1984, a sum of Rs. 700 crores was spent for developing that structural area. I would only like to know why consistently the ONGC has reduced the expenditure on that structure. The resulting effect is that the production has been badly affected. I would like to know the reason which the hon. Minister can give as to why the money has been consistently reduced for expenditure. *(Interruptions).*

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: No. I don't have to tell him privately. This matter is a very serious matter. It is not just a question of Krishna-Godavari basin. You have to see the overall positioin, that Neelam is a similar case where we have discovered oil which can be exploited. We have Panna, Mukta and Tapti where there is oil which can be exploited. What I am trying to say is this. The key issue here is....*(Interruptions)* .

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Money.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: I am coming to that. The key issue is that the intensity of drilling in India is 12 wells per 10,000 kms.; worldwide it is 100 wells and in USA 500 wells. It gives you some idea of what the problem is, the kind of investments which are required and the kind of money which is required to make India self-sufficient in oil.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jagesh Desai __ *(Interruptions).*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, my

question was the reasons for the consistent decrease in. the expenditure in the Godavari-Krishna area. That was my very specific question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Lack of funds .....*(Interruptions)*....Lack of funds. Mr. Desai.

SHRI ASHIS SEN: Sir, let the Minister say that he is not prepared to answer the question..... *(Interruptions)*...Yes, he is still in the probation period.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that the Government has understood the importance of petroleum products. I am happy that the Central Plan Outlay for 1993-94 has been stepped up by hundred per cent. It was Rs. 6.200 crores in 1992-93 and it has been raised to Rs. 12,000 crores. I am happy to know this. The Budgetary support for the Central Plan has also been increased by Rs. 5,000 crores in 1993-94, but. Sir, the Government has not given importance to the Budgetary support for the Petroleum Ministry. The Budgetary support for 1992-93 was R.s. 352 crores and this year it has been reduced to Rs. 268 crores. So, Mr. Minister, you must plead with the Government that the Budgetary suport for this sector should be increased. If generally it has been increased by 25 per cent, that must be the increase for this also. Instead of that, the Government wants to go in for issue of shares. I would like to know from the hon. Minister.....*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will plead for you.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I would like to know from the Minister what these shares are that he is going to issue, at what premium he is going to issue. What we have seen is when the shares of the public sector were disinvested, the Government has sold it at a throwaway price. As such, when they issue shares, the premium should be fixed. Sir, I would like to know what the equity is that they are going to issue and whether that much amount will be helpful to them or whether they will go in for loans or the Budgetary support from the Central Government; whether they will take it up with the Finance Ministry because injustice has been done to this Ministry and whether that injustice can be redressed.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Sir, through you, I would like to share with the hon. Member that the total requirement of funds is Rs. 38,200 crores less joint venture private capital of Rs. 350 crores (anticipated) and the requirement of Oil Company is Rs. 35,150 crores. Even if I include the internal resources plus extra Budgetary support plus supply of credit of Rs. 21.500 crores, I am still having a gap of Rs. 13,650 crores. I don't expect the Government to be in a position to give me the kind of Budgetary support which is in front of mc. The only way out is that as per the new policy we have to get these massive investments coming into the oil sector—whether it is exploration or drilling or the area of discovered oil fields—only from outside. Sir.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Sir. it is abundantly clear that in India we are having oil resources enough; that is why the Government is now thinking of giving our oil resources for private exploration by foreign multinationals. Now I will put a question to the Minister. What is the cost of internal production per barrel of crude oil? I say that it is one-fourth of the international price. Therefore, if we properly invest money for ONGC and if we attain self-sufficiency in the field of oil. India's foreign liability can be saved by 30 per cent. Therefore, the policy which is being followed by the Government to go in for foreign multinationals instead of helping the ONGC must be changed. May I request the Minister to change this policy so that India can be saved from foreign bondage?

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Sir. as regards the cost of a barrel of oil, what is the ONGC cost or all-India cost or our

cost, I will be passing on those figures to the hon. Member. But as far as the other part of the question is concerned, I am surprised—I think, for the last few minutes all that we have discussed is the level of investment which is required—forget the ONGC—which is even beyond India—that he should still be asking such questions. *(Interruptions)...*

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: How can it be an answer? He doesn't give even the cost. *(Interruptions)...*

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Why don't you sell out the country if you don't have the money? *(Interruptions)...He* is proposing like that. *(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Of course, he has registered the points. Mr. Agarwal. *(Interruptions)...*

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: He is proposing to sell our country to the foreigners. *(Interruptions).....*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Why are you trying to politicise the issue? *(Interruptions).....*

श्री राम दास अग्रवाल: सभापति जी, गत वर्ष में सरकारी प्रतिष्ठानों ने लगभग 3800 करोड़ रुपए के शेयर्स बेचे थे मार्केट में और उसमें कई प्रकार की धपलेबाजी और सौदों में गड़बड़ सामने आई थी। हम ये आश्वासन चाहते हैं आज इस संसद में कि ओ.एन.जी.सी. जिसने 20 परसेंट शेयर्स का डिस-इन्वैस्टमेंट करने का फैसला किया है उसके अन्दर किसी प्रकार की गड़बड़ नहीं होगी और उसके शेयर्स को बेचने में, उसकी संपत्ति को बेचने से मार्केट में कोई गफ्लत नहीं हो पाएगी, इसका आश्वासन मंत्री जी को देना चाहिए...**(व्यवधान)** सुनिए जरा आप, सवाल ही कर रहा हूं मैं। आप चिन्ता न करिए...**(व्यवधान)**

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन: ये सवाल नहीं है... **(व्यवधान)**

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सबसे बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न यह है कि मंत्री जी ने अभी कहा है कि 20 परसेंट शेयर बेचने से उनको कितना रुपया प्राप्त होगा, इसकी जानकारी उनको नहीं है। तो अगर आपको 20 परसेंट शेयर बेचने से कितना रुपया प्राप्त होना है इसकी जानकारी नहीं है तो आपने 20 परसेंट ही शेयर बेचने का फैसला क्यों किया है? आपने फिर 25 या 30 परसेंट क्यों नहीं किया?

मेरा दूसरा इसमें छोटा प्रश्न यह है, पार्ट बी यह है कि क्या आपको ये पता है कि जो रुपया आना है वह कौन से प्रॉयोरिटी सैक्टर में या कौन से प्रोजेक्ट्स में आप खर्च करने वाले हैं, इसकी भी जानकारी दी जानी चाहिए।

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Mr. Chairman, through you, I would like to assure the Member that there is no question that ONGC is a profit-making company and I am to state that the value of ONGC shares, whenever they are floated, whether for the employees or the financial institutions or the general public or other investors, they will enjoy a very good premium and he can rest assured that they will not be, in any way, less than what the market dictates. As far as the second part of the question is concerned, as I have already mentioned, the process is going on in the Ministry to get the exact evaluation of the assets of the ONGC. That is the first step which is going *on* and once that is done I will be in a position to give what the exact figure of 20% would come to, as I mentioned earlier. *(Interruptions) .....*

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न ये था कि...**(व्यवधान)**

I need your protection, Sir. *(Interruptions)...*

DR. BAPU KALDATE: Why 20%? *Interruptions).....*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 123. *(Interruptions) .....*

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: मैंने ये पूछा है कि ये जो रुपया प्राप्त होगा वह कौन से प्रोजेक्ट्स पर खर्च किया जाएगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. This is not a discussion. This is a question and answer. Question No. 123. *(Interruptions) .....*

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: माननीय सभापति जी, इन्होंने उत्तर नहीं दिया है...**(व्यवधान)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to proceed with another question. Q. No. 123.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Sir, it is useless to sit here for hours...

श्री कृष्ण लाल शर्मा: प्रश्न संख्या 123

MR. CHAIRMAN: I should not.. .*(interruptions).*

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: ...in spite of assurances from you.

(At this stage the hon. Member left the Chamber)

Pollution of Yamuna River

*123. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Yamuna is at present the most polluted river in the northern part of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to constitute another authority to clean the Yamuna river;

(c) if so, the main features of the plan to cleanse the river and when the authority is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Yamuna river is one of the highly polluted rivers of the country. A scheme of pollution abatement of river Yamuna is under consideration of the Government. Details in this regard are being worked out.

श्री कृष्ण लाल शर्मा: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जो उत्तर दिया है, उस में उन्होंने स्वीकार किया है कि यमुना देश की सबसे अधिक प्रदूषित नदियों में से एक है। किन्तु यह स्वीकार करने के बाद भी यह जानते हुए भी कि देश की राजधानी दिल्ली में लाखों लोग यमुना नदी के पानी पर निर्भर हैं, पीने का पानी और सिंचाई का पानी यहीं से लेते हैं, अभी तक इस के बारे में मंत्री महोदय ने केवल टालने वाला उत्तर दिया है और यह बताया है कि स्कीम, योजना जो है वह विचाराधीन है। अब इतने वर्षों के बाद यह मानते हुए कि यह नदी सबसे अधिक प्रदूषित है और दिल्ली देश की राजधानी है, यहां के लोगों को जो पानी पिला रहे हैं, इस समय 470 मिलियन गैलन में से वन थर्ड, 130 मिलियन गैलन यमुना में पीने का पानी दिल्ली के नागरिकों को दिया जा रहा है....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give a chance to the Minister to explain the scheme.

श्री कृष्ण लाल शर्मा: मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि अगर इतना प्रदूषण का यह विषय है तो सरकार ने अभी तक इस संबंध में कोई समय-बद्ध कार्यक्रम बनाया है और क्या गंगा प्राधिकरण के स्तर का यमुना के लिए भी कोई प्राधिकरण बनाने का उन्होंने निश्चय किया है? यह मेरा पहला पूरक प्रश्न है। .....**(व्यवधान)**

श्री विट्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव: सरयू नदी का प्रदूषण जो किया है उस का भी बताइए.....**(व्यवधान)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us have silence. Please listen. Let us not pollute the House with too much noise.

श्री कमल नाथ: माननीय सदस्य ने यह आरोप लगाया कि इसमें कुछ नहीं हुआ। मैंने जानते हुए और मानते हुए यह जवाब दिया और उन्होंने सुनते हुए भी नहीं समझा। सर, मैं फिर से समझा देता हूं। मैंने यह कहा कि यह जो योजना है यह अंडर कंसिडरेशन है इस पर विचार किया जा रहा है। इसके ये माने नहीं कि इसमें अधिक समय लगेगा। यह योजना बन गई है गंगा ऐक्शन प्लान फेज-2, इसकी जो कार्यवाही है पूरी भी हुई है। अब कैबिनेट सी०सी०ए० में यह पेंडिंग है। जैसे ही यह ऐप्रूव हो जाती है यह योजना लागू की जाएगी। इसमें दिल्ली भी सम्मिलित है और जो दिल्ली के यमुना नदी के प्रदूषण का प्रश्न है, मुझे विश्वास है कि जैसे ही यह योजना शुरू होती है, इस में सुधार होगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

श्री कृष्ण लाल शर्मा: सभापति महोदय, मेरा दूसरा पूरक प्रश्न यह है कि यमुना नदी का पानी इस समय तीन प्रदेशों में, उस का हिस्सा बांटा जा रहा है, दिल्ली, हरियाणा और उत्तर प्रदेश। अब इसके लिए भी जैसे पहले मंत्री महोदय ने बताया स्कीम तो है, लेकिन उन्होंने डिटेल्स नहीं दीं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इन तीनों प्रदेशों में पानी के बंटवारे के लिए कोई निश्चित बोर्ड बना है और चूंकि दिल्ली की यह शिकायत है, और प्रदेशों की भी हो सकती है, कि उन को हिस्सा बराबर नहीं मिल रहा है, तो क्या बोर्ड बना है और वह बोर्ड इनके हिस्से तय करके उन को पानी दे रहा है, इसके बारे में जानकारी दीजिए।